

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01443 242203Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINS, PFOR, MASS

SUBJECT: FURTHER CHILEAN REACTION TO KENNEDY AMENDMENT

REF: SANTIAGO 1347

1. SUMMARY: SMALL STREET DEMONSTRATION MORNING FEBRUARY 21, PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM LEADING FIGURES IN PRO-JUNTA CIVILIAN ORGANIZATIONS, AND CONTINUING HEAVY PRESS PLAY MARK OFFICIAL CHILEAN REACTION TO KENNEDY AMENDMENT BANNING ARMS TRANSFERS TO CHILE. IN SPEECH AT IQUIQUE PINOCHET ALLUDED TO KENNEDY AS USING ATTACKS AGAINST CHILE AS CHEAP DOMESTIC POLITICAL MANEUVER. MOST EMBASSY OFFICIALS RECEIVING COMPLAINTS ABOUT SENATE ACTION. LABATT, HOWEVER, RECEIVED PHONE CALLS SUPPORTING KENNEDY'S ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. SATURDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 21 APPROXIMATELY 100 YOUTHS -- MOSTLY LATE TEENS AND EARLY TWENTIES -- STAGED RALLY AT DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO PLAZA DE ARMAS AND PASSED US CONSULATE DURING NOISY BUT PEACEFUL MARCH. GROUP CARRIED PLACARDS ATTACKING "HYPOCRITICAL" ATTITUDE OF SENATOR KENNEDY. ONE ACCOUNT MENTIONED THAT PARTICIPANTS WERE NATIONAL YOUTH SECRETARIAT SYMPATHIZERS (SECRETARIAT IS GOC-SPONSORED YOUTH ORGANIZATION). SIX OR SEVEN WERE APPREHENDED BY CARABINEROS NEAR CONSULATE, WHICH WAS CLOSED AT THE TIME. CARABINEROS

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01443 242203Z

QUOTED AS STATING THAT MARCHERS DETAINED BECAUSE DEMONSTRATIONS

NOT PERMITTED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE, NOT BECAUSE OF ANY INTENTION TO DAMAGE PROPERTY. PRESS AND TELEVISION COVERED DEMONSTRATION FULLY.

3. PINOCHET, IN NORTH ON ANOTHER TOUR OF COUNTRY, ATTACKED SENATOR KENNEDY PUBLICLY FOR FIRST TIME SINCE PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT IN SENATE. PINOCHET REPORTEDLY SAID: "OTHER DEMAGOGUES IN TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY COUNTRIES COVER THEIR ELECTORAL WARDROBE WITH CHEAP LIBERALISM. THEY USE PRESTIGIOUS TRIBUNALS TO STAND IN PARTIAL JUDGMENT ON THIS LITTLE COUNTRY, BUT ONE WITH FIERCE TRADITION OF LIBERTY. THEY PRETEND THEREBY TO ISOLATE IT POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. THEY ARE PUPPETS USED BY SOVIET IMPERIALISM TO PENETRATE DEMOCRATIC CONSCIENCE OF PEOPLE. THEY PUT THEIR PERSONAL AMBITIONS AHEAD OF SACRED INTERESTS OF OWN COUNTRY."

4. PRESIDENTS OF NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENTS CASTIGATING SENATOR KENNEDY AND SUPPORTING GOC. PRESS MADE MUCH OF COMMENTS TO EFFECT THAT SUCH OUTSIDE ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE INTERNAL CHILEAN AFFAIRS ONLY UNITE PEOPLE. GOVERNMENT-OWNED "CRONISTA" FRONT-PAGED "KENNEDY IS TRAITOR," WITH SUBHEAD ASCRIBING THIS STATEMENT TO A GUILD SPOKESMAN. OTHER PAPERS CONTINUING LOCAL REACTION ON INSIDE PAGES. MOST EMBASSY CONTACTS RESPONDING CRITICALLY TO SENATE ACTION. HOWEVER, LABATT RECEIVED SEVERAL TELEPHONE CALLS CONGRATULATING SENATE FOR TAKING STRONG STAND AGAINST ARMS FOR JUNTA.

5. COMMENT: MUCH OF THE OVERALL REACTION IS OBVIOUSLY OFFICIALLY INSPIRED. AT SAME TIME, IT REFLECTS THE RESENTMENT AMONG MANY CHILEANS WHOSE PRIDE AND SENSE OF JUSTICE ARE INJURED WHEN, AS THEY PERCEIVE IT, CHILE IS UNJUSTIFIABLY SINGLED OUT. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THAT AT LEAST A FEW PDC LABOR ELEMENTS AND THE LIKE ARE WILLING TO LET US KNOW THAT THEY RELISH THE REBUFF TO THE JUNTA.
POPPER

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